

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Mayor Healy Announces Legal Audit of Jersey City Development Process City to Retain Former Seton Hall Law Dean Ronald J. Riccio and Former Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter Timpone to Perform Audit

JERSEY CITY –Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy announced today that the City will retain the law firm of **McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP**, to perform a legal audit and analysis of the City’s development process to ensure transparency and fairness.

“In light of the events of July 23, 2009, we believe it is prudent to undertake a legal audit and analysis of our development process in order to verify that it is fully transparent, fair and efficient,” said **Mayor Healy**. “Notwithstanding the fact that Jersey City’s record of redevelopment is unparalleled throughout the state and the country, we will review our development process to ensure that it is uniform and equitable, and to restore the public trust.”

The administration is recommending that the City Council approve a contract to retain former **Seton Hall Law Dean Ronald J. Riccio**, former Assistant US Attorney **Walter Timpone**, and **Thomas Scrivo**, who wrote an expert treatise entitled, *New Jersey Local Government Deskbook*. The firm will have the opportunity to review documents and relevant local legislation as well as to interview City officials in an attorney-client privileged setting.

At the conclusion of their analysis, which is expected within 90 days, the firm will provide the City with a written report documenting its findings and provide recommendations to enhance the process, if necessary.

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Additionally, Mayor Healy will sign an Executive Order requiring all City directors and employees who participate in the development process to undergo mandatory ethics training. The ethics training will take place within the next thirty (30) days and will be conducted by William Kearns, Esq., General Counsel to the League of Municipalities.

Mayor Healy is also directing the Law Department to undertake an analysis of various campaign contribution laws around the country and to engage in discussions with civic interest groups regarding new campaign contribution laws.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.

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